

SCHOOL FIRE TRAP CAUGHT NEARLY 200

Cleveland Horror Grows With Passage of Time.

LIST OF DEAD INCOMPLETE

May Be Days Before the Full Extent Is Known.

THOROUGH PROBE IS ORDERED

Contradictory Stories as to Whether or Not Doors Opened Inward and Were Locked.

Other Great Fire Disasters in the Past.

September, 1811—Richmond Theater, Richmond, Va., 7 killed.
October, 1819—Lehman's Theater, St. Petersburg, Russia, 650 killed.
January 6, 1864—Church of the Jesuits, Santiago, Chile, 2,500 killed.
December 5, 1876—Brooklyn Theater, Brooklyn, N. Y., 280 killed.
December 8, 1881—Ring Theater, Vienna, Austria, 200 killed.
June 16, 1883—School Sunderland, England, 200 killed.
May 26, 1887—Opera Comique, Paris, France, 200 killed.
September 4, 1887—Exeter Theater, Exeter, England, 200 killed.
March 21, 1888—Banquet Theater, Oporto, Portugal, 200 killed.
July 21, 1889—Building at Lu-Chow, China, 400 killed.
January 9, 1890—Shantung Theater, China, 200 killed.
August 22, 1891—Taylor building, New York city, collapse and fire, 61 killed.
February 8, 1892—Hotel Royal, New York city, 17 killed.
September, 1895—Pike's Opera House, Cincinnati, Ohio, 200 killed.
August 12, 1896—Chicago Union Trust Theater, Chicago, 200 killed.
May 4, 1897—Charity bazaar, Paris, France, 150 killed.
March 17, 1898—Windsor Hotel, New York city, 16 killed.
June 30, 1900—Piers of North German Lloyd Steamship Company and three steamships, North river, New York, 200 killed and injured.
September 20, 1902—Shiloh Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., 115 killed.
January 27, 1903—Colony Hatch Asylum, London, England, 72 killed.
December 30, 1903—Theatricals Theater, Chicago, Ill., 598 killed.
June 15, 1904—Steamship Gen. Slocum, East river, New York, 1,021 killed.
March 20, 1905—R. B. Glover & Co.'s shoe factory, Brockton, Mass., 100 killed.
December 7, 1907—Coal mine, Fairmont, W. Va., 400 killed.
January 14, 1908—Rhodes Opera House, Boyertown, Pa., 169 killed.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 5.—Up to 10 o'clock today 112 little bodies had been identified from among the pupils of the Lake View School, in Collinwood, who lost their lives in the fire that gutted the school building yesterday morning. Twenty-four hours now have passed, and the exact number of fatalities is unknown. The number may reach 170. How many bodies still are in the ruins, if any, has not been positively determined.

Village firemen and voluntary assistants still are probing among the smoldering ruins.

So far 168 bodies have been recovered. Of these there remain fifty-six still to be identified.

Of the fifty-six it is generally admitted that practically all will not be distinguished one from the other. Their names will be ascertained from the list of missing, but their individuality is a mystery that probably will never be solved.

The arrangements for a great public funeral are being rapidly perfected. This likely will take place tomorrow, or not later than Saturday.

County Coroner T. A. Burke today began an investigation of the causes leading to the terrible loss of life in the burning of the school building. This work on the part of the coroner is not only official and in line with his regular duties, but he will go into the matter thoroughly, his work being supplementary to the investigation being conducted by the various Collinwood officials, such as the board of education and the village council.

The work of the Collinwood officials also was resumed early today. So far they have arrived at no definite conclusion as to the cause of the fire or where to place the blame, if blame is to be placed.

Search for Three Girls.

It is generally admitted that the school building was of approved fireproof construction, and that the calamity could not have been averted, looked at from this standpoint.

Also it now is believed that the fire did not have its origin in the furnace or that it resulted from the explosion of the heating boiler. From the testimony so far adduced the fire must have started under the stairway leading from the basement to the first floor of the school building. The janitor, Fred Herter, stoutly maintains that there was no waste or rubbish there.

The officials are doubling their efforts to ascertain the names of the three girls who are reported to have been in the basement at the time the fire started, and who are said by the janitor to have first notified him of the fire which later developed into such a death-dealing instrument.

Much depends, it is thought, upon the stories these girls may be able to tell.

Death List Grows.

The latter desire to learn the exact reason for the holocaust, not only because it may be the means of preventing a repetition of the calamity in the future and may stand as warning to other schools throughout the country, but will to a degree appease the anxiety of the afflicted parents and the public in general.

No. 17,329.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1908—TWENTY-TWO PAGES. TWO CENTS.

Weather.

Rain tonight and tomorrow. Slightly warmer.

In this connection the janitor has been made to bear the major portion of the blame. While the janitor practically has cleared himself upon his own testimony, yet the feeling against him is high in Collinwood. Yesterday one father, crazed by his grief, made an attempt upon the life of Herter, but was restrained with difficulty. Herter is being guarded by the police. In addition to the blame, whether justified or not, being heaped upon him, Herter is broken down with grief over the loss of three of his own children in the fire.

As the day wore on the belief became general that a number of dead might total upward of 180. While 168 bodies had been recovered, it was stated by Village Engineer Gould that he was of the opinion that possibly twenty more bodies still were in the ruins, burned to ashes.

Mr. Gould based this opinion upon the difference between the number of bodies recovered and the number that have been reported missing. As the missing have not yet all been accounted for, it is apparent that the list of the many total 180 when the facts have been sifted from the rumors.

Origin of the Fire.

The cause of the fire, which was aided by a frantic panic, a narrow hallway and doors which, it is claimed, by many, were made to open inward, still is a mystery. It was at first supposed that it came from an overheated furnace or an exploded boiler in the basement of the schoolhouse. It has been established that there was no explosion, and the janitor of the school, Fred Herter, three of whose children perished, declares that it could not have come from the furnace.

Yesterday in Collinwood was comparatively warm, and Herter declares that he maintained the fires at a lower rate than usual. Fearing he had not sufficiently warmed the building, he was, according to his story, on his way to open the furnace when he was met by three little girls running from the basement, who told him there was a fire below.

These three little girls are now being sought by the police and by the fire commissioners. It is considered entirely possible by certain members of the Collinwood school board that they may have through carelessness started the blaze which cost the lives of so many children.

May Have Been Incendiary.

L. R. Gardner, a member of the school board, is positive in his assertion that the fire was of incendiary origin. In that portion of the building where it was discovered there are no electric lights, wires or other direct means of creating heat, or other direct means of creating heat.

There were in the building at the time the fire was discovered between 310 and 325 pupils and nine teachers. Two of the latter are among the dead.

The school was overcrowded, and quarters had been provided for the younger children in the attic. Strange as it may seem, more of the pupils escaped from this part of the schoolhouse than from any other. The children were under good discipline, they had been practiced frequently in fire drills, their school exercises, showing great courage in the face of imminent death, and yet more than half of these died.

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Dead Lay in Heaps.

For supreme horror the scenes that were enacted around the rear door of the ill-fated schoolhouse have had few parallels. Little school children lay six and eight deep, while men and women struggled with desperation to release them until they were compelled to give way.

One woman, who was seen by her own daughter in this press and stroked her hair in the effort to keep the flames away. She failed and her mother looked on.

From the upper floors of the building two stairways offered exit. One of these led to the door in front, the other to the rear. The front door was never fully opened, but a dense pile of little bodies lay in the blackened wreckage beneath.

When the fire broke out the teachers promptly formed the pupils in columns of march, according to the drill which they had so frequently practiced and started them for the doors. They had trained the children to march along the columns headed that way, and the children, unknowingly were by their teachers literally marched into the very face of the flames.

When the head of the column was nearing the front door a rush of flames met it. Some of the children dashed back, but the effort to open it, while others turned and fled wildly up the stairs. The door was double and one side was held fast by the fire. When the door was pressed down, and within a few seconds there was a jam, a panic and a struggle on the stairway and behind the door took place behind it. This would have been the end of the matter, had it not been for the fact that the door was not closed. Later it was opened, despite the terrific jam that took place behind it. This would have been the end of the matter, had it not been for the fact that the door was not closed.

Doors Opening Inward.

A far worse tragedy, however, was enacted at the door in the rear. This, it is claimed, opened like the front door, toward the interior of the building. In order to reach this entrance, the pupils were compelled to march down a stairway, make the sharp turn in a narrow hallway and so to the door. It was the lack of space in the hall, and the sharp bend at the foot of the stairs that cost so many lives.

When the door was opened, the children fled from the fire in front of them, and the door was closed. Later it was opened, despite the terrific jam that took place behind it. This would have been the end of the matter, had it not been for the fact that the door was not closed.

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ANARCHISTS MUST GO

General Movement to Make Them Uncomfortable.

STRAUS ORDER WELCOMED

One Arrest Already Made by Pittsburgh Police.

PHILADELPHIA WAKING UP

Chicago's Assistant Chief of Police Now Thinks That Lazarus Averbuch Acted Alone.

CHICAGO, March 5.—"Lazarus Averbuch was alone in his attempt to take the life of Chief Shippy. Three days and nights' hard work on the case has brought me to this conclusion. I am going ahead, however, arresting all his friends I can find in the effort to sift this thing to the bone."

Assistant Chief of Police Schuetter, who has taken charge of the anarchist situation in Chicago, made this statement last night after a final and futile attempt to extract from Rosa Stern, Averbuch's friend, who was arrested yesterday, any information she might have as to a plot to kill the chief.

Though arrests of anarchist suspects were made in several parts of the city during the day, and all of Averbuch's friends held by the police were subjected to thorough questioning, the police are more and more to the conclusion that Averbuch had no actual confederates.

Every clue that was furnished by Olga Averbuch, the would-be assassin's sister; Harry Goldstein, secretary of the Edelstadt group of anarchists; Isadore Maron, Averbuch's friend; H. Abramowitz, the student, and the Stern girl, was followed to the end without revealing a shred of evidence pointing to a knowledge of the intended crime by any one beyond the morbid young man who was shot by the chief.

Raided a Boarding House.

Continuing their efforts to connect the attempted assassination of Chief of Police George M. Shippy last Monday with an anarchist plot, the police early today raided a rooming house at 78 Johnson street and seized a trunk full of property belonging to Harry Goldstein, one of the alleged anarchists now under arrest.

The trunk, which is believed by the police to contain anarchist literature, was locked and the lid securely nailed. It was taken to the Maxwell street police station. According to the police Goldstein had lived at this rooming house for a time previous to the attempt on the life of Chief Shippy.

Harry Shippy, the chief's son, who was shot while aiding his father to fight off the would-be assassin Averbuch, now has a good chance for recovery.

Assistant Chief Schuetter to investigate a report which gained circulation last night that Emma Goldman, the anarchist leader, had arrived in Chicago from St. Louis. The report, however, could not be substantiated.

Pittsburgh Arrest.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., March 5.—Federal authorities of this district are exerting themselves to an unusual degree to rid the community of people of anarchistic tendencies, members of the Black Hand and similar undesirable characters. They also express a desire to co-operate with municipal and state authorities in this work.

Reinhard Bass, who recently came here from Germany, has been landed in jail as one of the first results of this crusade, and Robert B. Layton, immigrant inspector for this district, is awaiting expected instructions from Washington to take steps for Bass' deportation.

Bass is accused of assaulting a neighbor with a hatchet, demanding money and threatening death if refused. It is charged that he was an avowed anarchist before he came to America and that he can be returned to the country from whence he came.

Philadelphia Aroused.

PHILADELPHIA, March 5.—Aroused by the recent riot of unemployed foreigners on the principal street of this city and last Sunday's meeting of socialists in which law and order were defied, the police are prepared to actively co-operate with the immigration officials under the order of Secretary Straus to rid the country of alien anarchists and other criminals.

The authorities are convinced that Philadelphia is in danger of becoming a center of such demonstrations, and vigorous measures will be employed to stamp out dangerous doctrines.

Investigations have been started which may result in the deportation of hundreds of undesirable foreigners. In addition to searching every nook and corner where anarchists are supposed to congregate, officers of the immigration service have been making a census of the alien confined in penal, reformatory and charitable institutions in the state. All such persons who are found to have been guilty of crime in their native countries will be deported.

In four penal institutions in this city it has been found that there are about 600

Taft and Anti-Taft

Next Two Weeks Critical Period in Republican Politics.

ALLIES' IMPORTANT WORK

New England to Be Organized Against Instructions.

DIFFICULTIES IN CAMPAIGN

Attitude of Labor and Temper of Negro Vote in Border States—Conventions for March.

SENATOR CRANE'S STATEMENT.

Senator Crane's statement was as follows: "The next republican national convention will, without doubt, be the most important convention held since 1864. The action taken there may determine the result of the election soon to follow."

"Massachusetts should take an influential part in that gathering of representatives from all parts of the country, and should uphold her well-known traditions and reputation for political liberty by sending delegates unhampered by instructions or resolutions."

"They should be absolutely free to do that which seems wisest and best for the party and for the country."

Tuesday night at a meeting which will be sponsored by influential republicans of Massachusetts, and it is stated that following his address there will be excess of activity in behalf of an unqualified delegation. Of course, everybody knows that the keynote of the campaign of the coming campaign is there any belief that the republican party will have a walkover in the next election. Beyond the question of nominations comes the question of electing the candidates, and a great many republicans are taking these into serious consideration at this time.

South in State of Ferment.

While the Taft boom will be making progress in the states and districts to hold conventions within the fortnight to come, work by the opposition will continue in the southern states. There is

HOSPITAL SHIP RELIEF.

Will Be Attached to Admiral Evans' Fleet.

It was announced at the Navy Department today that the naval hospital ship Relief and the tender Fortune, both of which are at San Francisco, had been assigned to the Atlantic fleet commanded by Rear Admiral Evans and that they would join that fleet at Magdalena Bay, Surin, Charles F. Stokes, who is in command of the Relief, will report to Admiral Evans for orders and will have the same general status with the fleet as the commanding officers of the other naval vessels.

ASK FOR \$500,000.

Desired to Have Good Representation in the Tokio Exposition.

The House committee on arts and exhibitions today decided to report favorably a bill appropriating \$500,000 for the participation of the United States in the international exposition at Tokio, Japan, in 1912.

When Japan first formulated the plan for the exposition, it comprehended simply a national show. Since that time invitations have been accepted by practically all of the European countries to participate. For that reason the appropriation of \$500,000, provided for in the bill which has just passed the Senate is inadequate from every point of view for the proper representation of the United States government at the exposition.

MAILS DELAYED?

HERE'S EVIDENCE.

Cases of Tardiness Not So "Isolated" as Claimed.

JUST A FEW COLD FACTS

One Local Letter Takes a Side Trip to Chicago.

WAS PLAINLY ADDRESSED

Dinner Invitation Ten Days on Its Journey to House in Same Section of City.

"Isolated cases" of undelivered, tardily delivered or wrongly delivered letters continue to be brought to the attention of The Star in such numbers that it begins to look as if Postmaster Barnes had used the word "isolated" in a Pickwickian sense. No better evidence of the complete demoralization of the distribution and delivery divisions of the Washington post office could be presented than this constant stream of complaints which The Star receives.

A few instances of misdirected or delayed letters are appended to illustrate the carelessness and tardiness of the service.

Mrs. H. C. Bolton, 1519 K street, received February 28 a letter mailed in this city February 10. The envelope was legibly and correctly addressed. Eighteen days' delay.

Took a Side Trip.

Miss Mattie Boyd, 428 College street, received February 29, in the evening, a letter mailed in Washington February 23. The letter was plainly and correctly addressed, but was sent to Chicago and remailed to Washington by the office of the Illinois city before it reached the person to whom it was addressed. Three days' delay and a trip to Chicago.

John T. D. Pyles, Jr., 1001 New Jersey avenue, received February 21 a letter mailed to him in the city January 27. The address was typewritten and correct. Delay of twenty-nine days.

A note of admission to the funeral services of Bishop Satterlee, addressed to W. P. Young, secretary of the Franklin Fire Insurance Company, at his home, 1329 S. street, mailed in the city at 7 p.m. February 24, was received at 4:50 p.m. February 25, two hours after the services were concluded. An example of the inefficiency of the local postal service.

An order to J. G. Meibner's bakery, was a printed address, P. O. Box 158, Washington, D. C., mailed in Weverton, Md., February 13, and received in Washington at 9 a.m. February 14, was not delivered until the afternoon of February 14. An example of financial loss inflicted on business men by the inefficiency of the local postal service.

Hurts His Business.

In this connection it may be mentioned that many letters addressed to him containing money in payment for flowers to be delivered on a certain night, do not reach him until after the date for which the order is given, and that, therefore, he loses the sales and has to return the money, besides suffering in his reputation for prompt and accurate service.

An official of one of the commercial organizations of the city also declares that on still about 1,000 announcements mailed by him to members 250 never reached the persons to whom they were plainly addressed, in type.

Andrew J. Benton, 310 E street north-east, received at 8:30 a.m., February 21, a letter mailed in Washington at 10 a.m. February 19.

Charles E. Taylor, 1310 I street, received March 2 a letter sent from a house in the city about February 21. The letter was plainly addressed and the person to whom it was sent has been residing at the same place for more than a year, and is so listed in the directory. The letter contained an invitation to dinner on the evening of February 23, but by the time the invitation was received a memory had almost faded.

Letters Piling Up.

For the past few days even ordinary deliveries are all late, current letters piling up in the delivery room, while the clerks are busy working on mail that should have been distributed the day before or early in the morning. It is easy to see that, with the congestion permitted to exist in the distributing division, a letter mailed with the expectation of speedy delivery does not stand the ghost of a chance. There is a long waiting list of letters. The letters must take their turns, and if each day the number not yet disposed of increases it will not be long before the office falls behind a week, instead of a day.

It is understood that the force in the distributing division was compelled to work all Washington for a special delivery Sunday succeeding in order to make some headway at clearing up the letters that have accumulated through slow distribution, but even with this no appreciable headway is made. The clerks, it is said, complain that they are being made to suffer on account of defects in management.

However this may be, the public's first interest is in having its mail delivered promptly and accurately. No such situation as this has arisen before and it is causing both annoyance and irritation.

Even the device of paying the office an extra ten cents for a special delivery may make sure that a letter is delivered with a promptness approaching that customary under the regular delivery of a former management has proved ineffectual, since complaints are coming in that the special delivery service is faulty also.

No prospect of amelioration of the present conditions is held out, Mr. Barnes' assurance that the service is good not yet having been revised or brought up to date.

South Carolina Senatorship.

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 5.—The first ballot at today's joint session of the legislature for a successor to the late United States Senator Latimer resulted as follows: Gary, 60; Walker, 43; Coker, 29; Mauldin, 16; scattering, 6. Necessary to a choice, 79. Gary's vote showed a gain of 8 over his last tally yesterday.

Walker, 51; Mauldin, 19; Coker, 13; Jones, 5; Holliday, 1.

To Abolish Hanging in Virginia.

RICHMOND, Va., March 5.—The senate today concurred in the house bill for the execution of all death sentences at the penitentiary in this city by electricity, thus abolishing hanging in the state.

Schedule of Conventions for March.

The schedule of state and district conventions in the month of March is as follows:

Georgia—Second and third districts, March 28.

Illinois—State, March 28; first and fourth districts, March 30; fourteenth district, March 31; eighteenth district, March 21; twentieth district, March 17; twenty-first and twenty-fifth districts, March 28; twenty-third district, March 20.

Iowa—State convention, March 18; sixth district, March 12.

Missouri—Eleventh and twelfth districts, March 12.

Nebraska—State convention, March 11; Ohio—Eleventh district, March 19; eighteenth district, March 20.

Oklahoma—State convention, March 11; fifth district, March 9.

Rhode Island—State convention, March 28; first and second districts, March 28.

Tennessee—State convention, March 23; Virginia—Ninth district, March 17.

New Mexico—March 21.

Porto Rico—March 20.

INDICTED MAN VERY ILL.

Ex-Treasurer Glazier Not Likely to Survive a Month.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE STAR.

CHELSEA, Mich., March 5.—Ex-State Treasurer Frank P. Glazier, indicted for misuse of the state funds, who was arrested yesterday, was so ill he could hardly realize the nature of the proceedings.

"It is doubtful if Glazier will survive a month," said a man closely connected with the family. "It is almost certain he will not live to appear in court."

The warrant was served by Sheriff Kline of Ingham county. The family physician and counsel for Glazier were present.

"Although it is plain Mr. Glazier cannot attempt to leave Chelsea," said Sheriff Kline, "and unless he is removed to a hospital, he will not survive."

COLUMBUS SCHOOL DEFECTIVE.

Chief Factory Inspector Starts for Collinwood.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 5.—Chief State Factory Inspector John H. Morgan left today for Collinwood, Ohio, to inspect the ruins of the school building there. The building was erected in 1911. It was never inspected by the state fire inspector. The statement is made today at the statehouse that the force of inspectors is inadequate. The law provides a penalty of \$500 fine for officers in charge of public buildings who permit their use when the doors swing inward.

Mayor Bond, on complaint of people who had been expelled from the Eastern School building here ordered the fire chief today to inspect all the school buildings in the city. The charge is made that the doors of the building have been kept locked during school hours. One building was found where the doors swing inward.

RIDGELY DENIES STORY.

Reported to Become Head of Big Kansas City Institution.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 5.—After having been closed since December 5, the National Bank of Commerce is to reopen its doors Monday, March 30, in its own quarters in the Commerce building. William Barret Ridgely of Washington, controller of the currency, will be its president.

Edward Ridgely, a brother, will be cashier, and George T. Cutts, the government receiver now in charge, first vice president.

William E. Ridgely, controller of the bank, is to assist for the time being. He received no offer to become president of the National Bank of Commerce of Kansas City, Mo., the big financial institution that is now assisting secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor, will become controller.

Some years ago he was deputy controller under Charles G. Dawes, now president of one of Chicago's great financial institutions.

GERMAN SCHOOL PRECAUTIONS.

Good Building Construction and Fire Drills.

BERLIN, March 5.—Ludwig Hoffmann, an architect who has gained much prominence in the designing of schools, was interviewed here today concerning the Cleveland catastrophe. He declared that a similar occurrence was virtually impossible in Germany.

German school buildings are of the most solid construction, with fireproof floors and ceilings. Some of them accommodate 2,000 children, and in the event of fire there is every provision for the escape of the scholars. There are wide double and sometimes triple stairways leading down from the class rooms, and the children are drilled regularly to march down stairs calmly when the fire alarm is sounded and form on the playground, where they are taught to await